

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A pointing device for use with a keyboard functions like a computer mouse. It incorporates a plurality of configurable function keys. The pointing device is composed of a rolling surface capable of rotation and translation that may activate a switch when it is depressed. An optical sensor monitors the rotation and translation of the rolling surface and translates that motion into communications interpretable by a mouse software driver. An edge sensor allows repositioning of the rolling surface without cursor movement when limits of travel are reached. The pointing device communicates with the computer through a serial communication facility such as a PS/2 or USB connection. The enclosure containing the rolling surface incorporates an aperture allowing a portion of the rolling surface to be available for manipulation, an elevated support surface for the keyboard and provision for palm rests.

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